



## Alaska

**Nome & the Seward Peninsula  
30th May to 3rd June 2018 (5 days)**

**The Pribilofs**

**3rd to 6th June 2018 (4 days)**

**Denali & Kenai**

**7th to 15th June 2018 (9 days)**

**Barrow – The High Arctic**

**16th to 18th June 2018 (3 days)**

**Trip Report and Photos: Stephan Lorenz**



One of the trip highlights Ross's Gull in Barrow.

This three-week grand journey through Alaska visited the finest birding locations this vast state has to offer. From the remote and lush tundra of Nome to the seabird spectacle of the Pribilof Islands through the endless boreal forests of the interior and finally ending in the high arctic of Barrow, this tour got us in all the right places to see some phenomenal birds and wildlife. With so many birds and mammals seen, 201 and 24 respectively, we all went home with a treasure trove of memories. Some outstanding sightings in Nome included Gyrfalcon on a nest, several Bristle-thighed Curlews walking tamely on the tundra, displaying Bluethroat, rare Black-headed and Slaty-backed gulls, surprise Bohemian Waxwings, and a stunning male Spectacled Eider on the final day here. Mammals were also abundant with two Walrus just offshore and a Grizzly chasing a Moose being especially memorable. After returning to Anchorage, we flew out to the seabird haven of St. Paul Island and, as always, the cliffs and tundra didn't disappoint. We notched up an incredible nine species of alcids plus local specialties in the form of Red-legged Kittiwake and Red-faced Cormorant. Yet, it was a slew of vagrant species from Eurasia that created hours of excitement, especially for the ABA listers in the group, and during our short visit we tallied Tufted Duck, Common and Terek sandpipers, Common Greenshank, Oriental Cuckoo, Grey-streaked Flycatcher, Eyebrowed Thrush, Red-flanked Bluetail, Olive-backed Pipit, and Brambling. The tame Arctic Foxes were fun to watch and we saw yet another Walrus that even hauled out onto the rocks, very rare here. The longest section of the tour covered the Denali area and Kenai Peninsula. The birds just kept falling into place with multiple Northern Goshawks, Northern Hawk-Owls, close Spruce Grouse, Black-backed and American Three-toed woodpeckers, and breeding plumaged Smith's Longspurs all noted in the Denali area. A boat trip into the magnificent Kenai Fjords National Park netted us the uncommon Kittlitz's and Marbled murrelets plus a show of three pods of Orcas, including one breaching male. The tour ended with two days in Barrow where the arctic tundra was alive with shorebirds and waterfowl. We had good views of all four eiders, saw Snowy Owls at an active nest, added Red-necked and Little stint to our shorebird list, and enjoyed displaying Buff-breasted Sandpipers, but there was still the biggest highlight to come. On the final morning of the tour we tracked down a pair of Ross's Gulls, a truly spectacular and rare gull, for a grand finish to the tour.



Spruce Grouse

# Alaska - Nome, The Pribilofs, Denali & Barrow 2018

## Annotated List of species recorded

**Note:** Number in brackets ( ) indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

## Birds (201 in total: 200 seen)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.1).

**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

## United States (Continental)

### Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Brant Goose</b><br>Hundreds seen well in Nome and smaller numbers in Barrow.  | <i>Branta bernicla nigricans</i>       |
| <b>Canada Goose</b><br>Several seen in Anchorage.  | <i>Branta canadensis parvipes</i>      |
| <b>Cackling Goose</b><br>Common in the Nome area.  | <i>Branta hutchinsii taverneri</i>     |
| <b>Emperor Goose (NT)</b><br>One scoped at a distance in Nome where it was loafing on the mudflats of Safety Sound.  | <i>Anser canagicus</i>                 |
| <b>Snow Goose</b><br>A flock seen well in flight in Barrow.  | <i>Anser caerulescens caerulescens</i> |
| <b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b><br>Abundant in Barrow where we had many close views.  | <i>Anser albifrons gambelli</i>        |
| <b>Trumpeter Swan</b><br>Seen well along the Denali Highway and while traveling to and from Denali National Park, a stunning large swan.                     | <i>Cygnus buccinator</i>               |
| <b>Tundra Swan</b><br>Surprisingly several seen along the Denali Highway and common in Nome and Barrow, also noted on St. Paul Island where it is a vagrant. | <i>Cygnus columbianus columbianus</i>  |
| <b>Northern Shoveler</b><br>Several in Nome and along the Denali Highway.  | <i>Spatula clypeata</i>                |
| <b>Gadwall</b><br>St. Paul Island, Denali area, and Anchorage area.  | <i>Mareca strepera strepera</i>        |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Eurasian Wigeon</b><br>Pairs seen very well on St. Paul Island.  | <i>Mareca penelope</i>                  |
| <b>American Wigeon</b><br>Widespread.   | <i>Mareca americana</i>                 |
| <b>Mallard</b><br>Fairly widespread.  | <i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i> |
| <b>Northern Pintail</b><br>Abundant in many places.   | <i>Anas acuta</i>                       |
| <b>Eurasian Teal</b><br>Studied closely on St. Paul Island.   | <i>Anas crecca</i>                      |
| <b>Green-winged Teal</b><br>Common in Denali area and Nome.   | <i>Anas carolinensis</i>                |
| <b>Ring-necked Duck</b><br>Uncommon along Denali Highway and seen at Potter Marsh Anchorage.  | <i>Aythya collaris</i>                  |
| <b>Tufted Duck</b><br>A pair studied at length on St. Paul Island.  | <i>Aythya fuligula</i>                  |
| <b>Greater Scaup</b><br>Common throughout.  | <i>Aythya marila nearctica</i>          |
| <b>Lesser Scaup</b><br>Not as common as previous species.   | <i>Aythya affinis</i>                   |
| <b>Steller's Eider (VU)</b><br>Up to 40 of these beautiful and rare sea ducks in Barrow with many close views.  | <i>Polysticta stelleri</i>              |
| <b>Spectacled Eider</b><br>First a male seen in Nome and then several pairs scoped in Barrow.   | <i>Somateria fischeri</i>               |
| <b>King Eider</b><br>First seen in Nome and St. Paul Island with many more in Barrow.   | <i>Somateria spectabilis</i>            |
| <b>Common Eider</b><br>Abundant in Nome and also seen in flight in Barrow.  | <i>Somateria mollissima v-nigrum</i>    |
| <b>Harlequin Duck</b><br>Common throughout seen everywhere except Barrow.   | <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>        |
| <b>Surf Scoter</b><br>Many noted in Nome, seen again en route to Denali Highway and along the highway itself.   | <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>          |
| <b>White-winged Scoter</b><br>Numerous in Nome with several large flocks, a single noted on St. Paul Island and smaller numbers along the Denali Highway. | <i>Melanitta deglandi deglandi</i>      |
| <b>Black Scoter (NT)</b><br>Mainly observed in Nome.  | <i>Melanitta americana</i>              |
| <b>Long-tailed Duck (VU)</b><br>Abundant throughout, the most common waterfowl of the trip.   | <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>                |
| <b>Bufflehead</b><br>A few seen along the Denali Highway  | <i>Bucephala albeola</i>                |
| <b>Common Goldeneye</b><br>Small groups seen in Nome and along Denali Highway, surprisingly scarce during the trip.                                       | <i>Bucephala clangula americana</i>     |
| <b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b><br>Common along the Denali Highway where we had many close views of this beautiful duck.  | <i>Bucephala islandica</i>              |
| <b>Common Merganser</b><br>Denali Highway.  | <i>Mergus merganser americanus</i>      |
| <b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>   | <i>Mergus serrator</i>                  |

Common throughout.

### Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae*

#### **Spruce Grouse**

*Falcapennis canadensis osgoodi*

During a weather delay along the park road in Denali National Park one flew across the road. A bit of searching in the dense forest resulted in views down to a meter or two as the bird foraged right in front of us!

#### **Rock Ptarmigan**

*Lagopus muta rupestris*

Best seen along Teller Road in Nome where a pair posed for photos.

#### **Willow Ptarmigan**

*Lagopus lagopus alascensis*

Common in Nome and in Denali National Park.

### Loons *Gaviidae*

#### **Red-throated Loon**

*Gavia stellata*

Abundant in Nome and many seen along Denali Highway also many in Barrow.

#### **Pacific Loon**

*Gavia pacifica*

Best views Connor Lake Anchorage and many in Barrow.

#### **Common Loon**

*Gavia immer*

Seen on St. Paul Island and again along the Denali Highway.

#### **Yellow-billed Loon (NT)**

*Gavia adamsii*

Great views of one resting on a lake Barrow.

### Petrels, Shearwaters & Diving Petrels *Procellariidae*

#### **Northern Fulmar**

*Fulmarus glacialis rogersii*

Breeding on St. Paul Island.

### Grebes *Podicipedidae*

#### **Red-necked Grebe**

*Podiceps grisegena holbollii*

Common throughout the mainland with courting pairs in Anchorage.

#### **Horned Grebe**

*Podiceps auritus cornutus*

One seen in full breeding plumage Denali Highway.

### Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

#### **Pelagic Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax pelagicus pelagicus*

Common in Nome, St. Paul Island, and Kenai Fjords National Park.

#### **Red-faced Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax urile*

Great views on St. Paul Island and seen again Kenai Fjords National Park.

#### **Double-crested Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax auritus cincinatus*

First seen on St. Paul Island where it is rare and many seen during our boat tour in Kenai Fjords National Park.

### Osprey *Pandionidae*

#### **Western Osprey**

*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*

Seen briefly overhead in the Willow area during our woodpecker quest.

### Kites, Hawks & Eagles *Accipitridae*

#### **Golden Eagle**

*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*

Several seen along the Denali Highway and also seen well in Nome near at an active nest. We also found one on a nest in Denali National Park.

**Northern Goshawk**

*Accipiter gentilis atricapillus*

Wow! Two in one day along the Denali Highway with both carrying prey. One in tundra with a mammal in its talons and another scoped on the edge of a lake with a recently captured duck. An uncommon bird in Alaska.

**Northern Harrier**

*Circus hudsonius*

Common in the interior and Nome.

**Bald Eagle**

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus washingtoniensis*

Common in coastal Alaska.

**Red-tailed Hawk**

*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*

Fairly common while driving in the interior.

**Rough-legged Buzzard**

*Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis*

Best seen in Nome where present on an active nest along the Teller Road.

**Cranes Gruidae**

**Sandhill Crane**

*Antigone canadensis canadensis*

Nome, Anchorage area, and Barrow.

**Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae**

**Pacific Golden Plover**

*Pluvialis fulva*

Common in Nome where many seen in their breeding finery.

**American Golden Plover**

*Pluvialis dominica*

Nome and Barrow.

**Grey Plover**

*Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*

Only seen in Nome along Teller Road.

**Semipalmated Plover**

*Charadrius semipalmatus*

Common and seen throughout the tour.

**Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae**

**Bristle-thighed Curlew (VU)**

*Numenius tahitiensis*

Our outing to Coffee Dome along the Kougarok Road proved very successful with at least five birds noted during our hike with three strolling in front of us for many minutes.

**Whimbrel**

*Numenius phaeopus rufiventris*

Nome and Denali Highway.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**

*Limosa lapponica baueri*

Flight views in Nome along Safety Sound road and one present throughout our stay on St. Paul Island.

**Hudsonian Godwit**

*Limosa haemastica*

Seen very well Westchester Lagoon in Anchorage.

**Ruddy Turnstone**

*Arenaria interpres morinella*

Nome, St. Paul Island, and Barrow.

**Black Turnstone**

*Arenaria melanocephala*

Fantastic views in Nome of this range-restricted shorebird.

**Red Knot**

*Calidris canutus roselaari*

Great to find one on its breeding grounds along the Teller Road in Nome where it is a low density nesting species.

**Surfbird**

*Calidris virgata*

Many in the feeding aggregations in Nome along the shore.

**Red-necked Stint**

*Calidris ruficollis*

Two breeding plumaged birds during our first evening in Barrow were a definite highlight.

**Sanderling**

*Calidris alba rubida*

Nome and Barrow.

**Dunlin**

*Calidris alpina pacifica*

Common in Nome and Barrow.

**Rock Sandpiper**

*Calidris ptilocnemis ptilocnemis*

Abundant on St. Paul Island and we also found them in Nome where it is an uncommon breeding species.

The subspecies in Nome is smaller and darker belonging to ssp. *C. p. tschuktschorum*.

**Baird's Sandpiper**

*Calidris bairdii*

After a bit of searching we found a pair with the male in full display in Barrow.

**Little Stint**

*Calidris minuta*

The eleventh hour bird in Barrow with a bird in full breeding regalia along Cake Eater road.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper (NT)**

*Calidris subruficollis*

Wow, to see these neat sandpipers in full display on the remote tundra of Barrow will always remain one of the top birding memories for all participants.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

*Calidris melanotos*

Common in Nome and abundant in Barrow with males hooting and in full display flights across the tundra.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper (NT)**

*Calidris pusilla*

Abundant in both Nome and Barrow.

**Western Sandpiper**

*Calidris mauri*

Uncommon Nome and Barrow.

**Long-billed Dowitcher**

*Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Common in Barrow.

**Wilson's Snipe**

*Gallinago delicata*

Fairly common throughout and often heard.

**Terek Sandpiper**

*Xenus cinereus*

Another vagrant from Asia and seen well during two days on St. Paul Island.

**Red-necked Phalarope**

*Phalaropus lobatus*

Abundant St. Paul Island, Nome, Denali, and Barrow.

**Red Phalarope**

*Phalaropus fulicarius*

Huge flocks on St. Paul Island and an abundant nesting species in Barrow with birds spinning in every available pond and puddle, even in the middle of the flooded road!

**Common Sandpiper**

*Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen briefly on St. Paul Island, but not by all.

**Spotted Sandpiper**

*Actitis macularius*

Denali Highway.

**Wandering Tattler**

*Tringa incana*

Great views along the Denali Highway with a bird scoped for many minutes.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

*Tringa flavipes*

Brief views in flight Potter Marsh Anchorage.

**Common Greenshank**

*Tringa nebularia*

Yet another rarity seen well on St. Paul Island where it was present in Antone Slough.

**Greater Yellowlegs**

*Tringa melanoleuca*

Flight views only Denali Highway.

### Gulls, Terns & Skimmers *Laridae*

#### **Black-legged Kittiwake**

Abundant on St. Paul Island, Nome, and Seward area.

*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*

#### **Red-legged Kittiwake (VU)**

Great views of this Alaska specialty on St. Paul Island where we saw dozens.

*Rissa brevirostris*

#### **Sabine's Gull**

Common this year in Nome with many observed very close to shore and seen again on the tundra in Barrow.

*Xema sabini*

#### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Denali Highway and Anchorage area.

*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

#### **Black-headed Gull**

As we were heading back to town for dinner two adult plumaged birds had us turn around quickly and a short chase resulted in good flight views of this rarity.

*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

#### **Ross's Gull**

One of the absolute trip highlights was a pair of these stunning, high arctic gulls in Barrow. We were able to follow them across the frozen tundra for nearly an hour, eventually getting scope views at less than five meters. A very rare bird in Alaska outside of the fall season.

*Rhodostethia rosea*

#### **Mew Gull**

Common in the Nome, Denali, and Anchorage areas.

*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*

#### **Glaucous-winged Gull**

The abundant large gull in the Anchorage and Seward areas.

*Larus glaucescens*

#### **Glaucous Gull**

Abundant in Nome and Barrow.

*Larus hyperboreus barrovianus*

#### **American Herring Gull**

A few noted around Anchorage and along the Denali Highway where it is an uncommon nesting species.

*Larus smithsonianus*

#### **Vega Gull**

Seen well in Nome.

*Larus vegae vegae*

#### **Slaty-backed Gull**

An adult bird at the landfill in Nome was scoped at length and a first cycle bird observed briefly on St. Paul Island.

*Larus schistisagus*

#### **Aleutian Tern**

Fairly common in Nome with excellent flight views.

*Onychoprion aleuticus*

#### **Common Tern**

An uncommon species in Alaska, but we found one of the Siberian subspecies on Weather Bureau Lake on St. Paul Island.

*Sterna hirundo longipennis*

#### **Arctic Tern**

Abundant in Nome, Denali and Anchorage, and a few had arrived in Barrow.

*Sterna paradisaea*

### Skuas and Jaegers *Stercorariidae*

#### **Pomarine Jaeger**

Good numbers in Barrow this year with birds on nests already, also seen in Nome.

*Stercorarius pomarinus*

#### **Parasitic Jaeger**

A pair tearing apart a lemming in Barrow revealed that it was indeed a good lemming year, also seen in Nome, both dark and pale morphs.

*Stercorarius parasiticus*

#### **Long-tailed Jaeger**

*Stercorarius longicaudus pallescens*



Common in the Nome area and seen well on the Denali Highway, literally on the highway feeding on roadkill.

### Auks, Murres, and Puffins *Alcidae*

#### **Thick-billed Murre**

*Uria lomvia arra*

Common St. Paul Island and a few seen in Nome and during Kenai Fjords National Park boat trip.

#### **Common Murre**

*Uria aalge inornata*

Less numerous than previous species on St. Paul Island, but abundant Nome and Kenai Fjords National Park.

#### **Pigeon Guillemot**

*Cepphus columba adiantus*

Seen St. Paul Island and many in Seward area.

#### **Marbled Murrelet (EN)**

*Brachyramphus marmoratus*

Great views during our boat trip Kenai Fjords National Park.

#### **Kittlitz's Murrelet (CR)**

*Brachyramphus brevirostris*

Fantastic views of a pair that kept coming closer and closer during our Kenai Fjords National Park boat trip as we neared the end of Aialik Bay.

#### **Ancient Murrelet**

*Synthliboramphus antiquus antiquus*

Many seen during Kenai Fjords boat trip.

#### **Parakeet Auklet**

*Aethia psittacula*

Abundant on St. Paul Island and three seen well Kenai Fjords.

#### **Least Auklet**

*Aethia pusilla*

Abundant on St. Paul Island.

#### **Crested Auklet**

*Aethia cristatella*

Fairly common on St. Paul Island with good studies of a single bird on the cliff.

#### **Rhinoceros Auklet**

*Cerorhinca monocerata*

One briefly seen in flight on St. Paul Island where it is rare and hundreds Kenai Fjords.

#### **Horned Puffin**

*Fratercula corniculata*

Common St. Paul Island, a few seen off Cape Nome, and common Kenai Fjords.

#### **Tufted Puffin**

*Fratercula cirrhata*

Common St. Paul Island and Kenai Fjords.

### Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

#### **Rock Dove**

*Columba livia var. domestica*

Seen around Nome and Anchorage.

### Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

#### **Oriental Cuckoo**

*Cuculus optatus*

One of the rarest birds of the trip with a hepatic morph female in the quarry on St. Paul Island and we had good views of it during two days. Only the fifth local record.

### Owls *Strigidae*

#### **Snowy Owl**

*Bubo scandiacus*

A great year for this stunning owl in Barrow and we saw up to four per day with one active nest visible from the road.

#### **Great Horned Owl**

*Bubo virginianus lagophonus*

A surprise find at Tolsona Wilderness Camp since this species is somewhat uncommon in Alaska, but we saw both members of the pair of their day roosts.

#### **Northern Hawk-Owl**

*Surnia ulula caparoch*

Great spotting on this one along the Denali Highway and then two more in Denali National Park, including one on an active nest.

**Short-eared Owl**

*Asio flammeus flammeus*

Seen briefly on St. Paul Island, also Denali National Park in the snow, and then common in Barrow

**Hummingbirds Trochilidae**

**Rufous Hummingbird**

*Selasphorus rufus*

Up to two seen on feeders outside of Seward.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

**Belted Kingfisher**

*Megaceryle alcyon*

Seen briefly flying across road by some while driving to Seward.

**Woodpeckers Picidae**

**American Three-toed Woodpecker**

*Picoides dorsalis fasciatus*

A great find of an active nest near Willow where we could study this uncommon species at length.

**Black-backed Woodpecker**

*Picoides arcticus*

Likely an active nest nearby and a male showed well several times near Willow.

**Downy Woodpecker**

*Dryobates pubescens medianus*

Westchester Lagoon Anchorage.

**Hairy Woodpecker**

*Leuconotopicus villosus septentrionalis*

Best seen at feeders outside of Seward.

**Northern Flicker**

*Colaptes auratus luteus*

Seen in flight while driving towards the Denali Highway.

**Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae**

**Merlin**

*Falco columbarius columbarius*

Seen briefly outside our lodgings along the Denali Highway.

**Gyr Falcon**

*Falco rusticolus*

Wow, what a start to the tour with one on a nest Council Road in Nome, another seen in flight along Teller Road, and yet another perched on a cliff in the scope Denali National Park.

**Peregrine Falcon**

*Falco peregrinus tundrius*

One flying fast along the coast in Barrow.

**Tyrant Flycatchers Tyrannidae**

**Say's Phoebe**

*Sayornis saya saya*

Nesting in Nome and along the Denali Highway where a pair entertained us every morning at the Tangle River Inn.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher (NT)**

*Contopus cooperi*

Heard only in the Willow area.

**Western Wood Pewee**

*Contopus sordidulus saturatus*

A vocal pair studied closely Willow area.

**Alder Flycatcher**

*Empidonax alnorum*

Common throughout the Denali and Kenai section of the tour.

**Shrikes Laniidae**

**Northern Shrike**

*Lanius borealis borealis*

Seen well in Nome, including an active nest, and scope views of one along the Denali Highway.

### Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*

- Grey Jay** *Perisoreus canadensis pacificus*  
Common in the interior boreal forests with great views in the campground where we had a picnic lunch.
- Steller's Jay** *Cyanocitta stelleri stelleri*  
Seen well in the Seward area.
- Black-billed Magpie** *Pica hudsonia*  
Common throughout the Denali and Kenai sections of the trip.
- Northwestern Crow** *Corvus caurinus*  
Seen well in the Seward Harbor and Kenai Fjords National Park.
- Northern Raven** *Corvus corax principalis*  
Common throughout.

### Waxwings *Bombycillidae*

- Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus pallidiceps*  
A great find at Byers Lake where two showed in the scope and also a small group near the end of Council Road in Nome where it is very rare.

### Tits, Chickadees *Paridae*

- Black-capped Chickadee** *Poecile atricapillus turneri*  
Seen well in the Willow area.
- Boreal Chickadee** *Poecile hudsonicus hudsonicus*  
Great views of a pair along the Denali Highway and seen again at an active nest at Byers Lake.
- Chestnut-backed Chickadee** *Poecile rufescens rufescens*  
Good views of a small group at Seward and then better views near the feeders outside of Seward.

### Larks *Alaudidae*

- Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris arctica*  
One on the road Denali Highway.

### Swallows *Hirundinidae*

- Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia riparia*  
Common along Denali Highway and in Nome, also seen on St. Paul Island.
- Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*  
Common Denali Highway and abundant around Anchorage.
- Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina thalassina*  
Seen well at Potter Marsh Anchorage and Seward.
- American Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota pyrrhonota*  
Abundant in Nome and Denali Highway.

### Leaf warblers and allies *Phylloscopidae*

- Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis kennicotti*  
Some of the best views of this species along the Denali Highway where a bird came in very close, singing within a metre of us, offering great photo opportunities.

### Kinglets *Regulidae*

- Golden-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus satrapa apache*  
Seward area where seen in the tops of the tall hemlocks.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet***Regulus calendula grinnelli*

Fairly numerous at least by voice in the boreal forest and one seen in Nome at the end of Council Road where rare.

**Wrens Troglodytidae****Pacific Wren***Troglodytes pacificus alascensis*

Seen on St. Paul Island and in Seward where one sang from the top of a tall spruce.

**Nuthatches Sittidae****Red-breasted Nuthatch***Sitta canadensis*

At feeders outside of Seward.

**Treecreepers Certhiidae****Brown Creeper***Certhia americana alascensis*

A single, vocal bird seen well Seward area.

**Starlings Sturnidae****Common Starling***Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*

Anchorage area.

**Thrushes and Allies Turdidae****Varied Thrush***Ixoreus naevius meruloides*

Seen well in Nome and again at feeders outside of Seward.

**Grey-cheeked Thrush***Catharus minimus aliciae*

Common in Nome and along the Denali Highway.

**Swainson's Thrush***Catharus ustulatus incanus*

The common thrush of lush boreal and deciduous forests between Denali and Anchorage.

**Hermit Thrush***Catharus guttatus guttatus*

Summit Lake had a responsive individual and others heard in the Seward area.

**Eyebrowed Thrush***Turdus obscurus*

The first evening on St. Paul Island delivered at least four of these rare vagrants between Hutchinson's Hill and Polovina Quarry.

**American Robin***Turdus migratorius migratorius*

Common in Nome and Denali area.

**Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae****Grey-streaked Flycatcher***Muscicapa griseisticta*

One of the rarer vagrants from Asia with a bird present for three days on St. Paul Island right on the beach at Marunich and we enjoyed many great views.

**Bluethroat***Luscinia svecica svecica*

One dropped into our laps along the Teller Road in full flight display outside of typical habitat. The bird then perched on the tundra for minutes on end.

**Red-flanked Bluetail***Tarsiger cyanurus*

An elusive bird seen by guide only in a rugged section of the quarry St. Paul Island.

**Northern Wheatear***Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*

Great views in Nome and again in Denali National Park where it is uncommon, this species migrates to Alaska all the way from subsaharan Africa.

### Dippers *Cinclidae*

#### **American Dipper**

*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*

Seen well along the Denali Highway and briefly in Nome.

### Wagtails, Pipits *Motacillidae*

#### **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**

*Motacilla tschutschensis tschutschensis*

Excellent views in Nome, a range restricted nesting species in Alaska.

#### **Olive-backed Pipit**

*Anthus hodgsoni*

St. Paul Island witnessed a veritable invasion of this vagrant this spring and we saw up to three birds, including one on Polovina Hill in full flight display.

#### **Buff-bellied Pipit**

*Anthus rubescens rubescens*

Denali Highway.

### Finches *Fringillidae*

#### **Brambling**

*Fringilla montifringilla*

Several seen well on St. Paul Island.

#### **Pine Grosbeak**

*Pinicola enucleator leucura*

First seen in campground where we enjoyed a picnic lunch Denali Highway and then a pair at feeders outside of Seward.

#### **Grey-crowned Rosy Finch**

*Leucosticte tephrocotis umbrina*

Abundant on St. Paul Island.

#### **Common Redpoll**

*Acanthis flammea flammea*

Common along Denali Highway.

#### **Arctic Redpoll**

*Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*

#### **Red Crossbill**

*Loxia curvirostra sitkensis*

A small flock was present just outside of Seward and seen well near feeders.

#### **Pine Siskin**

*Spinus pinus pinus*

Seen outside of Seward.

### Longspurs and Snow Buntings *Calcariidae*

#### **Lapland Longspur**

*Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*

Abundant St. Paul Island, Nome, and Barrow.

#### **Smith's Longspur**

*Calcarius pictus*

We saw at least two birds along the Denali Highway where it is a very rare breeding species. This was the same location that held around two pairs during the two prior springs.

#### **Snow Bunting**

*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*

St. Paul Island and abundant in Barrow where birds were singing from every perch.

### New World Buntings and Sparrows *Passerellidae*

#### **Red Fox Sparrow**

*Passerella iliaca zaboria*

Denali Highway and Nome.

#### **Sooty Fox Sparrow**

*Passerella unalaschcensis sinuosa*

Seen well in the Seward area, including good views near the feeders.

#### **Song Sparrow**

*Melospiza melodia kenaiensis*

Seen well in the Seward area with many singing birds around and even in town, a large, dark subspecies here.

#### **Lincoln's Sparrow**

*Melospiza lincolnii lincolnii*

Denali Highway and Tonglen Lake Lodge with even better views Potter Marsh.

**White-crowned Sparrow**

*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*

Common in Nome and Denali Highway.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**

*Zonotrichia atricapilla*

Very common in Nome, also seen Hatcher Pass with a few along Denali Highway.

**Dark-eyed Junco**

*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*

Fairly common in the boreal forests of the interior.

**Savannah Sparrow**

*Passerculus sandwichensis anthinus*

Common in Nome, Denali Highway, and Barrow.

**American Tree Sparrow**

*Spizelloides arborea ochracea*

Common Nome and Denali Highway.

**Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds *Icteridae***

**Rusty Blackbird (VU)**

*Euphagus carolinus carolinus*

Great views in Nome of a single bird along Kougarok Road and even better scope studies of a vocal pair Potter Marsh Anchorage.

**New World Warblers *Parulidae***

**Northern Waterthrush**

*Parkesia noveboracensis*

Seen well in Nome and Byers Lake.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**

*Leiothlypis celata celata*

Widespread and common Nome and Denali Highway.

**American Yellow Warbler**

*Setophaga aestiva banksi*

Fairly common in riparian areas in Nome and Denali Highway.

**Blackpoll Warbler**

*Setophaga striata*

Seen well in Nome and then abundant Denali Highway.

**Myrtle Warbler**

*Setophaga coronata hooveri*

Seen well in the Denali and Anchorage areas.

**Townsend's Warbler**

*Setophaga townsendi*

Seen well at Summit Lake on the way to Seward.

**Wilson's Warbler**

*Cardellina pusilla pileolata*

Common in Nome and the Denali area.

## Mammals (24 in total: 24 seen)

**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

### United States (Continental)

#### Rabbits, Hares *Leporidae*

##### **Snowshoe Hare**

*Lepus americanus*

A good year for this cyclical species.

#### Beavers *Castoridae*

##### **American Beaver**

*Castor canadensis*

Dams and lodges seen throughout with the occasional animal glimpsed.

#### New World Porcupines *Erethizontidae*

##### **North American Porcupine**

*Erethizon dorsatum*

Seen well by roadside while driving back to Anchorage.

#### Hamsters, New World Rats and Mice, Voles *Cricetidae*

##### **North American Brown Lemming**

*Lemmus trimucronatus*

Common in Barrow this year and seen throughout town.

#### Squirrels *Sciuridae*

##### **Hoary Marmot**

*Marmota caligata*

Best seen at Hatcher Pass where one posed for pictures.

##### **Arctic Ground Squirrel**

*Spermophilus parryii*

Abundant Denali area and Nome.

##### **Red Squirrel**

*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*

Best seen Tolsona Wilderness Camp and other boreal forest.

#### Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals *Canidae*

##### **Arctic Fox**

*Alopex lagopus*

Common on St. Paul Island where the blue phase roams throughout the island.

##### **Red Fox**

*Vulpes vulpes*

Seen well outside our lodging Denali Highway.

#### Bears, Giant Panda *Ursidae*

##### **Brown Bear**

*Ursus arctos horribilis*

A female and two year old Teller Road Nome.

**Weasels, Skunks, Otters *Mustelidae***

**Sea Otter**

*Enhydra lutris*

Great views Kenai Fjords.

**Ermine**

*Mustela erminea*

Seen briefly near Denali Highway.

**Sea Lions *Otariidae***

**Northern Fur Seal**

*Callorhinus ursinus*

Abundant on St. Paul Island where beach masters had arrived.

**Steller Sea Lion**

*Eumetopias jubatus jubatus*

St. Paul Island and Kenai Fjords.

**Seals *Phocidae***

**Spotted Seal**

*Phoca largha*

Nome and Barrow.

**Harbour Seal**

*Phoca vitulina*

St. Paul Island and Kenai Fjords.

**Ringed Seal**

*Pusa hispida*

Seen in Nome and Barrow.

**Oceanic Dolphins *Delphinidae***

**Killer Whale**

*Orcinus orca*

One of the most memorable mammal sightings of the trip with three pods seen during our boat trip Kenai Fjords National Park. One transient pod chased a Dall's Porpoise with one breaching several times.

**Porpoises *Phocoenidae***

**Dall's Porpoise**

*Phocoenoides dalli*

Seen well during our boat trip in Kenai Fjords as a group of three rode in the wake.

**Rorquals *Balaenopteridae***

**Humpback Whale**

*Megaptera novaeangliae*

Close views in Kenai Fjords National Park.

**Deer *Cervidae***

**Moose**

*Alces americanus*

Nome and many in Denali National Park and along the Denali Highway.

**Reindeer**

*Rangifer tarandus*

A small group seen along the Teller Road in Nome.

**Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats *Bovidae***

**Muskox**

*Ovibos moschatus*

Many seen well in the Nome area.

**Thinhorn Sheep**

*Ovis dalli*

Denali National Park.